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City Council Implements Two New Water Conservation Programs *Will Supplement Rebates and Assist Property Owners with Landscape Changes*

Beverly Hills, CA – The Beverly Hills City Council, at the June 8 meeting, approved a plan to expand the water conservation rebate program as well as to assist property owners in their transition to drought-tolerant landscaping. The revised rebate program, which goes into effect July 1, is the City's latest initiative in response to the severe statewide drought.

Under the expanded rebate program, the City will greatly increase rebates on turf replacement and the purchase of select water-efficient devices. The City's new program would supplement the rebates already provided by the Metropolitan Water District – in most cases doubling or tripling the refund amount. Devices that qualify for the rebate program include high-efficiency washing machines, toilets and urinals, in addition to weather-based irrigation controllers and rotating sprinkler nozzles.

A second program will subsidize a one-on-one coaching session that would educate the City's water customers on how to install water-efficient irrigation systems and drought-tolerant landscaping. The session will consist of a home visit and personalized consultation carried out by a qualified professional from the Green Gardens Group, a landscape professional group and one of the conservation partners of the Metropolitan Water District.

Examples of some of the rebates and subsidies under the expanded programs include:

- **Turf removal** - rebate up from \$2 per sq. ft. to **\$3.75** for the first 2,500 sq. ft. and \$2 per square foot thereafter. (Not to exceed 6,000 sq. ft. per property.)
- **High-efficiency washing machine** - rebate up from \$85 to **\$300**.
- **Zero and ultra-low retrofit urinal** - rebate up from \$200 to **\$500** for commercial properties.

- Initial Green Gardens Group **personalized consultation** subsidized \$175. City water customers pay only **\$50** of \$225 total price.

The City Council adopted both of these programs in line with the recommendations of the City's Public Works Commission. An initial \$100,000 in funding has been set aside for the first phase of the program; the amount may be increased if the program proves to be popular and effective in reducing water consumption.

For information on applying for the rebates or signing up for a landscaping consultation, go to www.beverlyhills.org/conservation or call 310-285-2467.

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